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HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

HAER
ALA
37-BIRM,
27A-

American Cast Iron Pipe Company,
Cupola Area
Birmingham Industrial District
1501 31st Ave. North
Birmingham
Jefferson County
Alabama

HAER No. AL-35-A

NOTE: Photographs were taken by Jet Lowe, Fall, 1993.

- AL-35-A-1 INTERIOR VIEW, LOOKING EAST, TOWARD BASE OF CUPOLA WITH AN IRON POUR IN PROCESS AS CUPOLA TENDERS, BENNY GOODMAN AND ALAN REVER, USING A ROD TO CLEAN OUT THE TAP HOLE ("RODDING THE HOLE") TO KEEP THE MOLTEN METAL FLOWING FREELY FROM THE IRON BOXES AT THE CUPOLA BASE INTO THE IRON TROUGH FOR LADLE TRANSFER TO THE MIXER AND PIPE CASTING OPERATIONS. ACIPCO'S CUPOLA (150 INCH IN DIAMETER AND 72 FEET IN HEIGHT) PRODUCED IRON THAT IS FURTHER REFINED FOR CASTING OPERATIONS. NATURAL GAS IS USED TO RESTART THE CUPOLA AFTER WHICH IT RUNS CONTINUOUSLY USING FURNACE GASES, PRODUCING AN AVERAGE OF 100 TONS OF MOLTEN METAL PER HOUR.
- AL-35-A-2 GENERAL INTERIOR VIEW, LOOKING NORTH, TOWARD THE CUPOLA FROM THE DIVERTER AREA, WITH IRON POUR IN PROCESS